

EXOCOETUS EVOLANS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Pinnæ pectorales longitudine trunci.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS, &c.

EXOCOETUS pinnis ventralibus parvis prope pectus.

Bloch. ichth. 12. p. 9. t. 398.

ABDOMINALES.

EXOCOETUS EVOLANS. E. abdomine tereti.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 521.

Piscium, quos perpaucos continet hoc genus, longæ adeo et magnæ sunt pinnæ quæ *pectorales* vocantur, ut harum ope subito interdum ex aquis exiliant, et per aera quasi volitantes ferantur pedes duccenos vel tricenos; in fluctus se iterum committentes cum pinnæ exaruerint. Quæ in tabula depingitur species mare incolit mediterraneum et atlanticum, in quibus, ut verbis utar celeberrimi physici, “ vitam ducit miserrimam, coryphænis et aliis piscibus voracibus perpetuo vexata; quos si eluserit per aera erumpendo, vel a Laris vel Diomedea corripitur; aut rursus se aquis credere coacta, in ipsas fauces hostium detruditur, volantem intentis oculis parique celeritate observantium.”

Notandum

Notandum est non proprium et peculiarem esse
volatum Exocoetis solis; sed donari illo et alios ali-
quot pisces; species nempe nonnullas *Scorpenæ*,
Trigle, &c.

Aequat plerumque magnitudine Exocoetus evolans
Clupeam quæ Harengus dicitur.

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Exocoetidae

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THE
FLYING-FISH.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Pectoral fins as long as the body.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER, &c.

FLYING-FISH with small ventral fins, near the breast.

FLYING-FISH.

Penn. Brit. Zool. 3. p. 292. pl. 67.

Der Hochflieger.

Bloch. ichth. 12. p. 9. pl. 398.

ABDOMINALES.

The fish of this genus, which are very few in number, are remarkable for the extreme length and size of their pectoral fins, by which they are enabled to spring occasionally from the water, and to support a kind of flight or continued motion thro' the air, to the distance of two or three hundred feet, when, the fins becoming dry, they are again obliged to commit themselves to their own element. The species here represented is a native of the Mediterranean and Atlantic seas, where, to use the words of
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an eminent naturalist, " it leads a most miserable life. In its own element it is perpetually harrassed by the Dorados, and other fish of prey, and if it endeavors to avoid them by having recourse to the air, it either meets its fate from the Gulls or the Albatross, or is forced down again into the mouth of the inhabitants of the water, which keep pace below with its aerial excursion.

It should be observed that this power of flight or temporary skimming thro' the air to a considerable distance, is not confined to this genus only, but takes place in some species of *Scorpæna*, *Trigla*, &c.

The common Flying-Fish is generally about the size of a Herring.